

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

20-74

Orleans

J

EAS.176

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Bridge-Dyer Beach
Road Area

Photograph



Address: 585 Bridge Road

Historic Name: Freeman A. and Laurena Collins House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1910

Source: Deed research, vital records

Style/Form: Colonial Revival/ Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block, concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Large additions/alterations (21st century)

Condition: Altered beyond recognition

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.27 acres

Setting: This parcel is located on the west side of Bridge Road in South Eastham. The surrounding area on this historic street includes houses from the 18th and 19th centuries. More recently, large lots have been subdivided with the addition of 20th century dwellings. Expanses of salt marsh extend behind the house and across the street. This house is set fairly close to the street on its level parcel. A clamshell driveway leads to the south side of the house. The parcel around the house is landscaped with expanses of lawn and foundation plantings. Mature trees and shrubbery along the street edge partially obscure the house from view.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

585 BRIDGE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Freeman A. and Laurena Collins House, built in ca. 1910, began as a Colonial Revival-style, side-gable house with a design reminiscent of historic Capes. As can be seen in the photo included in the 1998 Bridge-Dyer Beach Road Area Form (Photo 3), the front elevation was three bays wide with a centered entrance. The house has subsequently been greatly expanded; the main block is now six bays wide, and the one-story side ell shown in the 1998 photo has been either expanded or replaced with the current enclosed porch with open deck above. The large outbuilding shown in the 1998 photo has either been moved or demolished.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

(The following summary of Bridge Road history is adapted from the MHC Building Form for 1800 Bridge Road, EAS.61)
Bridge Road first consisted of the southern portion that extended from King's Highway to Rock Harbor in Orleans. Some form of the road was probably in place by the mid-17th century, and the road is shown on the 1795 Josiah Rogers map of the town. Rock Harbor was a significant port in the packet trade to and from Boston, Salem, Maine, and the Canadian maritime provinces. The shore west of where Bridge Road turns north was the site of numerous saltworks until the mid-1800s. The northern portion of Bridge Road was established in 1837 when the first bridge from which the road took its name was built over Boat Meadow Creek. The road connected with Samoset Road and eventually connected Rock Harbor to Eastham center.

This house has an Assessor date of 1910, but it is not shown on the 1910 Barnstable County Atlas. Title research traces back to Freeman A. Collins. In 1909, he went on a buying spree in this southern region of Eastham. Between 1909 and 1919, he purchased numerous acres of salt meadow, cranberry swamp, woodland, and upland in fourteen transactions. While the parcel descriptions in these deeds are not definitive, if Freeman Collins built this house, it seem most likely to have been on land that was part of one of these transactions. It also seems possible that this house was built in ca. 1910 based on a comparison of neighbors in the 1900 and 1910 census. The neighbors in the 1910 census are largely consistent with those on the 1910 Barnstable County Atlas.

Freeman A. Collins was born in Eastham in 1851. He married Orleans-born Laurena Smith (1852-1923) in Orleans in 1874. He was listed as a mariner in the 1880 census, but his occupation was later listed as Provisions (1900) and Meat and Provisions (1910). Freeman Collins died in 1919 of a heart attack. An obituary included in the March 8, 1919 edition of the *Yarmouth Register* stated that he was very active in the First Methodist Episcopal church in Orleans, and was "in the meat and provisions business for something like 28 years in Orleans and Eastham."¹

Freeman Collins died intestate, and in 1919 his children conveyed their interest to all his real estate to their mother, Laurena Collins.² After Laurena's death in 1923, land that included this house was inherited by her youngest son, farmer Harry W. Collins (1891-1951). In 1948, Collins sold 2.26 acres that included this house to Lawrence A. and Patricia L. Baker of Eastham.³ Lawrence A. Baker (1921-1979) was listed as a sheet metal worker in the 1950 census. He had married Patricia Poole in Orleans in 1945. In 1972, they recorded a subdivision plan of their property, with this house shown on Lot 1 (Figure 2).⁴ Patricia Baker, who died in 2006, retained this property until 2002 when she sold it to James E. S. Perkins of Boxborough, MA.⁵

¹ "Freeman A. Collins," *Yarmouth Register*, March 8, 1919, p. 5.

² Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 358/ Page 131.

³ Book 710/ Page 463.

⁴ Plan Book 261/ Page 79.

⁵ Book 15528/ Page 222.

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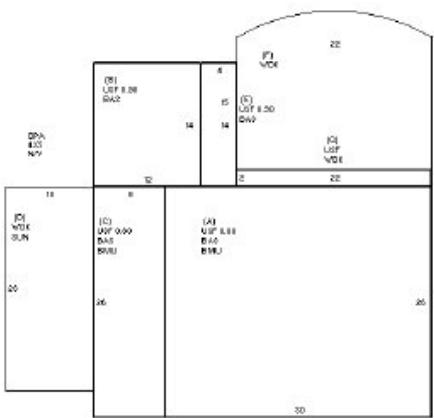


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.

Photo 2. View from Bridge Road, looking northwest.



Photo 3. 1998 view, looking northwest (EAS.J).

